Biomedical Applications of the Next Generation Internet (NGI) Phase 2
Patient-centric Tools for Regional Collaborative Cancer Care Using the NGI
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PI: Brent K. Stewart, Ph.D.

Summary of Salient Results (not to exceed 200 words):

Our goal was to foster distributed tumor board conferencing utilizing Next Generation Internet technology, allowing a greater number of experts at each site to collaborate in the process of patient management and therapy treatment planning. Three multidisciplinary teams were assembled to develop collaborative tumor board conferencing tools: the technical infrastructure, contextual inquiry and design, and telepresence and collaborative work teams. This multi-disciplinary team effort resulted in a highly successful collaborative tumor conferencing system that continues post contract. Through quarterly surveys administered over a 22 month period, 63% of attendees reported that access to transplant-related expert opinion had increased over the course of the study. Physicians reported an average savings of 1.25 hours commute time per conference. 86% of participants revealed that they were "not at all likely" to travel to the distant site for the conference, meaning that the distributed conferences were adopted by these participants as a natural part of their professional practice. 68% of those responding to the surveys reported that the usefulness of the information had increased versus the previous format. Asked about learning something of future usefulness, 66% reported that such learning was more likely in the multi-site setting, with 34% reporting no difference between formats.